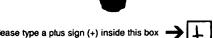
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Signature

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 16



PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LEX-0176-USA

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·	Application Number	09/854,844	8
TRANSMITTAL	Filing Date	May 14, 2001	H CE
FORM	First Named Inventor	Hu, Yi	NTE R
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Group Art Unit	1652	4 20 R 160
	Examiner Name	Ramirez, Delia M.	02

Attorney Docket Number

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)									
	Fee Transmit	tal Form		Assignment Papers (for an Application)		After Allowance Communication to Group			
	Fee Att	ached		Drawing(s)		Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences			
X	Amendment /	Reply		Licensing-related Papers		Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)			
After Final			Petition		Proprietary Information				
Affidavits/declaration(s)			Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application		Status Letter				
Extension of Time Request			Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence	X	Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):				
Express Abandonment Request			Terminal Disclaimer		- Return Postcard - Corrected Oath/Declaration				
	Information Disclosure Statement			Request for Refund					
Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)			CD, Number of CD(s)						
Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application			Remarks						
Response to Missing Parts									
	under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53								
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT									
Firm									
Individual name Lance K. Ishimto Reg. No. 41.866									
Signa	Signature Lancek Blumsto by Devil W. Holl PEB. NO. 41,071 24231								
Date March 1, 2002									
	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING								
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date:  March 1, 2002									
Туре	d or printed	Michelle-Klein							
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Date

March 1, 2002

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Application No.:

Hu et al.

09/854,844

Filed:

05/14/2001

Group Art Unit:

1652

Examiner:

D. Ramirez

Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0176-USA

Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides

Encoding the Same

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION **DATED DECEMBER 3, 2001**

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on December 3, 2001 (Paper No. 7), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No. 7 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

The response is due on March 3, 2002, which falls on a Sunday. The period for response is therefore extended until Monday, March 4, 2002 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

## **AMENDMENT**

## In the claims:

Please amend the claims so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 24 contiguous bases of nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:1.